

**Virginia HIV Community Planning Committee
Meeting Summary**

Members Present: Odile Attiglah, Mark Baker, Bill Briggs, Heather Bronson, Rhonda Callaham, Denise Clayborn, Betty Cochran, Dr. Rosalyn Cousar, Vontrida Custis, Hugo Delgado, Gregory Fordham, Takecia Griffin, Richard Hall, Robert Hewitt, Martha Lees, Elaine Martin, Nicholas Mattsson, Michael McIntyre, Dr. Joseph Riddick, Ruth Royster, Whitney Scott, Edward Strickler, Bruce Taylor

Members Absent: Tomas Cabrera (represented), Carrie Dolan (represented); Caroline Fuller, Deirdre Johnson, Patrick Plourde, Paul Searcy

Other Attendees: Ben Alonso, Steve Bailey, Caroline Campbell, Kathleen Carter, Sidnee' Dallas, Chris Delcher (representing Carrie Dolan), Ami Gandhi and Rachel Rees of the Virginia Department of Health; Mac McCraw and Stan Phillip, Jr. of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention; Judy Bradford, Ph.D. and Laurie Safford of Virginia Commonwealth University, Community Health Research Initiative; Pam Meador of the Council of Community Services; Yvonne Williams of K.I. Services, Inc. (representing Tomas Cabrera); Carlos Harrell, Chris Winstead and Maria Luisa Rusal, visitors

Total of 40 attendees.

Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was convened at 8:40 a.m. by Elaine Martin and introductions were made.

Membership

Demographics - Elaine Martin asked members to refer to the demographics form in their packets and explained why some of the gaps in membership (e.g., youth, transgender, and Asian/Pacific Islanders) have been hard to fill. Elaine explained that participating in the CPG has been difficult for youth because of conflicts in school schedules. Additional efforts will be made this year to bring transgenders and Asians to the table. A question was raised about participation from local clergy, and Elaine explained that in the past clergy members have had conflicts with their schedules. She encouraged current members to distribute applications to interested parties. It was also proposed to invite members to future meetings from communities that we need members from to generate interest.

Old Business

None

New Business

1) Exploratory Meeting with Department of Corrections (DOC) – At a recent meeting with DOC staff, Elaine Martin talked about the need for HIV prevention education and

testing in correctional facilities. She feels optimistic about DOC's willingness to address HIV testing and indicated that its leadership has expressed renewed interest in rapid testing. This position was reflected in the opinions of the DOC nurses who were present, and she invited a DOC nurse to attend the next contractors meeting so that VDH staff and DOC staff can get each other's perspective. Pam Meador discussed the Council of Community Services' education model for inmates which began in January and will continue until the end of the year, at which time it will be re-evaluated. Bill Briggs reported that he was asked to do a presentation at the jail in Arlington.

2) *Progress Report* – The interim report is due to CDC on September 15. It will be mailed to CPG members on approximately August 24th for review and comment. The letter of concurrence will be drafted at the September meeting.

Reports from HIV Prevention Leadership Summit

Gregory Fordham, Ami Gandhi, Elaine Martin, Michael McIntyre and Whitney Scott each gave their impressions of the conference held June 4-7, 2006 in Dallas, Texas. Favorable comments were made about workshops focusing on the success of social networking to increase access to testing in rural areas. Elaine explained that enough money is available for one RFP to fund one or two small rural projects. CDC will be training health departments on how to deploy social networking in October, and she would like to see the CPG get on board. Whitman Walker Clinic was one of the original testing sites, but unfortunately not enough money was available to fund the extra cost. Elaine reported that California has recently implemented a partner counseling and testing service called "Disclosure Assistance Services." Two transgender workshops were conducted, one by Dr. Judy Bradford and another by Fan Free Clinic. Elaine was pleased that Virginia is now "on the map" concerning transgender issues. Ami Gandhi liked the workshop focusing on Asian/Pacific Islanders and another on correctional issues, especially Maryland's which is implementing the intervention, PHARAOH, a counterpart for SISTA, but targets heterosexual African-American men. They also have trained their health educators in counseling and testing, so that if during the intervention the inmates are interested in being tested, then the educators can test them.

Population Prioritization

Ami Gandhi asked members to review the handout and to agree or disagree with the way she has organized it. She gave a review of how the Indicator Weights were formulated at the last meeting using data from HARS (HIV/AIDS Reporting System). Elaine indicated that she felt the sources of information were more current and relevant this time around, and felt better about the estimates than she has in the past. Members broke into three groups to score two of the indicators (Social Indicators and Available Resources) using the scales developed. Members were asked to score the indicators based on a handout of VDH resources and on their own impressions. Ami collected the scores from each group and will take an average to determine the scores. The final scores will be presented at the next meeting.

Transgender Study

Update – Dr. Judy Bradford reported that the study is completed and thanked everyone who made it possible. She is extremely pleased with the quality of data and number of surveys received (359 total, 61% web-based and 39% paper and pencil.). She gave a short summary of the study's background and context, and explained that natal sex status is the unit of analysis. She stated that the big pay off for doing the study was shown by 30% of respondents reporting having had unprotected sex since they were last tested and 29.2% reporting as HIV-positive. For more information about survey results, contact Dr. Bradford at jbbadfo@vcu.edu, and concerning logistics of survey implementation, contact Mert Rives at mrives@vcu.edu. Elaine Martin then recognized Ted Heck's efforts and thanked Dr. Bradford and her staff.

Future of the Transgender Taskforce – The taskforce will continue to meet, Ted Heck will continue publishing the quarterly newsletter, and a risk-assessment brochure for providers will be completed soon.

Virginia's Directly Funded CBO Projects

1) Odile Attiglah of the Ethiopian Community Development Council, Inc., presented on *HIV Prevention and Education Among High-Risk African Newcomers* using the Real AIDS Prevention Project (RAPP). The goal is to help sexually active African girls, women and their sexual partners reduce their risk for HIV infection. Objectives are to increase consistent condom use and to change community norms. The target population is high-risk African newcomers in Washington, D.C., Montgomery County in Maryland, and in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax, focusing on Somali, Ethiopian and French-speaking Africans. The age group is 18-25 and 26 and above. Both genders are included in the study. Primary HIV transmission is by heterosexual contact. Ms. Attiglah also talked about client eligibility, reported on the results of core activities, and the successes and challenges. She concluded by noting that members of the community have expressed satisfaction of having an HIV project with group education, and also that members of the community network are willing to support the project.

2) Pam Meador of Community Counseling Services (CCS) in Roanoke presented information on its Drop-in Center, where prevention counseling, OraSure testing, and interventions such as *Empowerment*, *Many Men*, *Many Voices* are conducted. She discussed three other projects currently underway at CCS: *Partnerships for Health* (CCS partners with Central Health in Lynchburg) which reaches 200 clients a year and is currently being refined to target the highest at-risk; Counseling, Testing, and Referral (CTR) which is funded through CDC and VDH and covers every population; and *Empower Roanoke* (for men) and *Fempower* (for women). Elaine commended CCS for its perseverance during times of frustration with DEBI intervention results.

Lunch (Ad hoc Call to Action workgroup and VORA met)

Ryan White and STD Subcommittees met.

Subcommittee Reports

STD - Sidnee' Dallas, State Refugee Health Program Coordinator, provided the group with a basic overview of immigration definitions, the overseas preparation process for

refugees; the Newcomer Health Program; and information about newcomer arrivals to Virginia.

Ryan White - Co-chair Ben Alonso introduced Steve Bailey, the new Assistant Director of Health Care Services at VDH. Steve gave a brief overview of the current revision process of the Case Management Standards and how they are trying to anticipate changes with the upcoming Ryan White CARE Act reauthorization. Ben announced two new antiretroviral therapies, Prezista and Atripla, which were recently approved by the FDA and should be added to the ADAP formulary. Ben also announced that the General Assembly had approved the funds necessary to set up a state pharmaceutical assistance program (SPAP) to help cost sharing requirements for persons living with HIV/AIDS and enrolled in Medicare Part D. After adopting the minutes from last meeting, the Subcommittee voted to approve the final draft of the primary care prevention message survey that will be distributed to Title II funded primary care providers. There was considerable interest in the feasibility of surveying a larger pool of medical providers. The survey will initially focus on Title II funded providers, but this broader scope may be revisited in the future. Discussion then focused on updates to the subcommittee purpose statement. With a few amendments to the draft, including the need for increased collaboration with all Ryan White titles and the five regional consortia, the revised version was approved. Ben and co-chair Rick Hall briefly discussed upcoming responsibilities of the Subcommittee for implementing several objectives outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Plan. The activities will be discussed in greater detail at the next subcommittee meeting on November 3, 2006.

Population Prioritization Continued

Groups reconvened.

PEMS Update and Quality Assurance Discussion

Elaine gave an update on PEMS and outlined what the new PEMS Coordinator, Rachel Rees, will be doing, e.g., developing quality assurance standards. CDC has delayed the modeling system for PEMS which was supposed to be in place by July. Originally, PEMS data was to be reported in the progress report this September, but that will not be possible because of the systems delay.

Time Line for Next Steps of Plan

This item will be completed at the September 7th meeting.

Review of May Meeting Summary

Motion was made to approve the minutes as written; motion passed.

Planning for September Meeting

- 1) Research and Standards and Practices Subcommittees will meet
- 2) Review population prioritization process
- 3) Review Grant application
- 4) VDH staff will present on success of abstinence programs
- 5) Schedule 2007 meeting dates

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

The Membership Committee (Dr. Rosalyn Cousar, Gregg Fordham, and Elaine Martin) met following the regular meeting to review new applications.

Elaine Martin, Health Department Co-Chair

Date

Kathleen Carter, Recording Secretary

Date

DRAFT